

News Release



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Historic Preservation Achievements

STATE PARKS ANNOUNCES 2003 GOVERNOR'S AWARDS

SACRAMENTO – Recipients of this year's Governor's Historic Preservation Awards were announced by the Office of Historic Preservation of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The awards are presented annually under the sponsorship of the Office of Historic Preservation to organizations and groups, and federal, state and local agencies whose contributions demonstrate outstanding commitment to excellence in historic preservation. The awards were presented in a ceremony in a historic hearing room at the State Capitol.

Recipients of the awards for this year include:

Before California. This award is for a book, written by Brian Fagan former U.C. Santa Barbara professor, that makes the scientific field of California archaeology more accessible to the general public. It was funded by many parties, including State Parks' Office of Historic Preservation, the Society for California Archaeology, the U.S. Forest Service, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management. The book seeks to interpret archaeology for the public and build support for preserving prehistoric archaeological sites.

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Campbell Walking Tour. This award to the City of Campbell is for a series of walking tour brochures that make historical resources accessible to the general public and celebrate the heritage of the city. The brochures are distributed widely within the community, including most city offices as well as libraries and other public places.

China Lake. This award recognizes the Navy's "above the call of duty" efforts to manage historic resources at the Naval Station at China Lake, which is approximately the size of Delaware and filled with pristine cultural resources. The best known resources are rock art sites, which comprise a National Historic Landmark district. The base also seeks to preserve important historic resources associated with its Cold War weapons testing program.

Fernald Mansion. This award was given to the Santa Barbara Historical Society for its recent work to repaint the 1880 Queen Anne Fernald Mansion, which is also the home of the Society. The historical society pursued scientific analysis of historic paint layers to devise an accurate but surprisingly monochromatic paint scheme.

Fresno Tours. This award recognizes the efforts of the La Paloma Guild in Fresno to draw attention to the many ethnic churches in that city. The tour captures the ethnic and religious diversity of that valley town, such as St. Genevieve's Chinese Catholic Church; Betsuin Japanese Buddhist Church; Holy Trinity Armenian Church; St. George Greek Orthodox Church; Carter African Methodist Episcopal Church; St. John's Catholic Cathedral; and Temple Beth Israel.

Kelton Ad Hoc Committee. This award is for a grass-roots effort to preserve a series of apartment buildings in the Westwood area of Los Angeles. The group was successful in getting the apartments declared cultural monuments, and developed a "how to" web site for other grassroots groups to understand the local, state, and federal historic preservation process.

Lightship Relief. This award is for the earnest efforts of a non-profit citizen's preservation organization to rehabilitate a floating lighthouse, or lightship. The Relief is a National Historic Landmark and was lovingly restored through a half million dollars in funds from grants and donations and the equivalent of 17 years of volunteer labor by the U.S. Lighthouse Society.

Maloof Foundation. This award is to the City of Rancho Cucamonga and Caltrans for the preservation of the home of a leading California artist. Sam Maloof, an internationally renowned woodworker, lived in a home that was threatened by the State Route 30 Freeway. Rather than demolish the building, Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration moved it several miles, reconstructed it, and endowed a non-profit foundation to maintain the home in a manner akin to the living masters program in Japan.

Morgan Hill Grammar School. This award is to public and private partners in Morgan Hill for saving the 1923 Morgan Hill Grammar School. The Grammar School was threatened with demolition by the school district until local groups mobilized in its defense. Ultimately, the school was moved and accurately renovated on a new parcel.

North Hollywood Library. This award is for a recent renovation of the Amelia Earhart Library in North Hollywood. The rehabilitation work met applicable preservation standards and points the way for sensitive rehabilitation of other libraries owned by the City of Los Angeles.

Philips Mansion Restoration. This award is to the Historical Society of Pomona Valley for the restoration of the 1875 Phillips Mansion. This Second Empire home belongs to the City of Pomona but has been restored through the fundraising and volunteer labor of historical society members.

Smiley Library. This award is for restoration of a tower and repainting of the Smiley Library in Redlands, which has long been a favorite among historic preservationists as well as librarians. Work included reconstruction of a bell tower that had been damaged in an earthquake, as well as resurfacing the building in a manner that recreated the original appearance. Funds for this work came through extensive local fund-raising efforts.

Sunnyhills Project. This award is for the Sunnyhills Preservation Group, which seeks to record and preserve the history of the Sunnyhills neighborhood of Milpitas. In the early 1950s, Ford Motor Company moved its assembly plant from Richmond to the South Bay, taking with it a workforce that was approximately 20 percent African American. Sunnyhills was a housing project, sponsored jointly by the

UAW and the American Friends Service Community, which targeted the new union workers in an explicitly desegregated environment.

Wilmington Historic Sites. Wilmington, near the Port of Los Angeles, includes numerous important 19th and early 20th century historic sites, such as the Civil War era Drum Barracks and the 19th century Banning Residence. This award is to the Wilmington Historical Society, which created an educational video for use in the area schools. The group secured funding from local corporations as well as volunteer technical assistance from a local community college.

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